

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 124820
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PA-02 ISO-00 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 SSO-00 SS-15 PM-05 INR-10 NSAE-00
INRE-00 MCT-01 /091 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----120968 170224Z /62

O 162310Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 124820

USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR
DOD
USICA

UNCLAS STATE 124820

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 AM

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 16, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS

FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 16. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT FOR THE DAY WAS HODDING CARTER.

Q. IN THE PRESIDENT'S WARNING OF TURNING ASIDE THOSE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST WHO WORK FOR MODERATION AND PEACE, I WAS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 124820

WONDERING IF YOU COULD TELL US WHEN, IF EVER, SAUDI ARABIA
HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE SADAT MISSION TO JERUSALEM OR
PUBLICLY SUPPORTED A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ON THE MIDDLE
EAST CONFLICT?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU TEXT AND VERSE. I CAN'T PULL IT OUT,
OUT OF MY HEAD. I CAN SIMPLY TELL YOU THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
SUPPORTED BY THE SADAT INITIATIVE.

Q. PUBLICLY?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO STAND HERE AND TELL YOU SOMETHING
THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION AS TO

WHAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS THEY MADE ON IT.

COULD I FOLLOW THAT UP BY ASKING, SINCE THE SAUDIS ARE
GIVING AN ESTIMATED \$40 MILLION A YEAR TO THE PLO, AND IN
VIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF THE SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER, ALL
WE OWN IS AT THE DISPOSAL OF AN ARAB NATION, WILL BE
USED IN BATTLE AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY, AND CROWN PRINCE
FAHD'S STATEMENT THAT SAUDI ARABIA ALLOCATES ALL ITS

FORCES AND STRENGTH TO BRING ABOUT VICTORY IN ARAB RIGHTS, OUR TASK IS NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM, BUT IT COULD INTERVENE ANYWHERE THAT OUR NATIONAL DUTY COMMANDS. AND HE ADDED THAT WE HAVE UNITS IN SYRIA AND JORDAN.

HAVE WE GOT ANY PUBLIC ASSURANCE FROM THE SAUDI ARABIANS THAT THESE F-15S WILL NOT BE USED BY OR IN SUPPORT OF THE PLO? WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN WRITING THAT IS PUBLIC?

A. WE HAVE THE ASSURANCE WHICH WE PUBLISHED THAT SECRETARY BROWN AS TO THE USE OF THE F-15S. THAT WAS A PUBLICLY RELEASED STATEMENT WHICH HAS THEIR PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 124820

Q. AND DIDN'T THEY PROMISE ALSO NOT TO TRAIN PILOTS FOR OTHER NATIONS? I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE TRAINED EGYPTIAN PILOTS IN THE USE OF F-5S. IS THAT CORRECT, AND IT WAS IN VIOLATION --.

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WAS AN OCCASION IN WHICH THAT OCCURRED SOME YEARS AGO.

Q. AND WE PROTESTED?

A. WE DID, AND IT STOPPED.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY STATEMENT ON WHAT THE EXPECTATIONS ARE IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD NOW THAT THE ARMS PACKAGE HAS BEEN DISPOSED OF?

A. LET ME SAY, FIRST, RELEVANT TO THAT QUESTION, THAT THE ANSWERS THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED FROM ISRAEL HAVEN'T COME YET. AS THE PRESIDENT SAID IN HIS STATEMENT AFTER THE VOTE, ALL OF US CAN NOW CONCENTRATE OUR FULL ATTENTION ON FINDING A SOUND AND JUST BASIS FOR A PERMANENT PEACE. WE, OF COURSE, EXPECT THAT ALL THE PARTIES WILL IN FACT BE BENDING THEIR EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION, INCLUDING US. BUT I DON'T HAVE A NEW INITIATIVE TO OFFER YOU, BECAUSE OUR

NEXT STEPS, AS THE SECRETARY SAID, IF I PARAPHRASE CORRECTLY, AWAIT SOME OF THOSE ANSWERS.

Q. AND IN THE MEANTIME, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOTHING, WAITING UNTIL THE ANSWERS COME?

A. WE HAVE ALREADY GONE OUT WITH ROUGHLY THE KIND OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 124820

MESSAGE THE PRESIDENT PUT OUT IN HIS STATEMENT SAYING, IN EFFECT, THIS IS BEHIND US, AND NOW LET US BUILD ON THIS TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD. THAT MESSAGE HAS GONE OUT, AND I AM NOT GIVING YOU -- THERE IS NO LANGUAGE LIKE THAT SPECIFICALLY IN THERE, BUT THAT WAS THE GENERAL THRUST OF WHAT WE HAVE GONE OUT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WITH.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION, PUBLIC OR OTHERWISE, FROM THE ISRAELIS THAT THEIR APPARENT DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE MIDDLE EAST AIRPLANE PACKAGE, WILL AFFECT THE PEACE PROCESS ITSELF?

A. IT IS OUR FEELING THAT THE ISRAELIS REMAIN AS COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS AS EVER, AND THAT THEY ARE AS INTERESTED AS ANY PARTY IN GOING FORWARD WITH IT.

Q. BUT HAS THE UNITED STATES' POSITION AS MIDDLE MAN BEEN HURT AS A RESULT OF THIS SALE?

A. WE CLEARLY BELIEVE THAT OUR POSITION, AS WE SAID IN OUR OWN RATIONALE FOR THE SALES, HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY THIS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF REASSURANCE FROM THE ISRAELIS? ARE YOU ANNOYED BY PRIME MINISTER BEHIN'S EXPRESSION OF DISAPPOINTMENT, OR ANYBODY ELSE'S, OR ANY REACTION?

A. WE ARE NOT. THE ISRAELIS' POSITION HAS BEEN CLEAR. THAT IS THE POSITION THEY MAINTAINED, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT POSITION. WE HOPE NOW THAT THIS DEBATE AND THIS MATTER BEING OVER, WE CAN MOVE FORWARD. BUT, NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY REACTION OR COMMENTS.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE124820
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REUNDELAND:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780207-0276
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780552/aaaabshb.tel
Line Count: 207
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63393e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2673707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 16, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, MPOL, XF, US
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63393e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014